

OLL 83-2670
1 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the DCI
THROUGH: Director, Office of Legislative Liaison
FROM:
Office of Legislative Liaison
SUBJECT: Status of Drug Tsar Bill

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1. The Office of Legislative Liaison has been tracking several bills that would establish a "drug tsar" to oversee and coordinate all federal efforts at drug interdiction, eradication and enforcement. A list of these bills, and their current status, is attached. Recently, Senator Biden added a drug tsar amendment to the Supplemental Appropriation Act for fiscal year 1984, H.R. 3959. This amendment incorporates the aspects of the previously introduced Biden bill (S. 1787) and the DeConcini bill (S. 1862). The amendment passed by a vote of 53 to 40 on 26 October 1983. The Senate passed H.R. 3959 with the Biden drug tsar amendment on 27 October 1983.

2. As passed by the House, H.R. 3959 does not contain any drug tsar provision. Consequently, the two differing versions of H.R. 3959 will go to conference. At present, a conference date has not been set and only the Senate conferees have been selected.

3. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has prepared a conference letter that opposes the drug tsar amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations Bill. This conference letter states that the Administration opposes the establishment of a drug tsar indicating that the position and authority already exists within the Office of the President. This conference letter does not recommend substitute language or point out the other budgetary problems in this bill. OMB indicates that the Director of OMB might threaten veto if the bill goes forward in its present form. We have requested OMB to provide our office with a copy of this letter.

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Attachment

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BILL (SPONSOR)	COMMITTEE	STATUS
H.R. 3326 (Shaw)	Judiciary	Hearings held 8/4/83
H.R. 3664 and H.R. 4028 (virtually identical bills) (Hughes)	Judiciary, Energy and Commerce	Reported by Judiciary on 10/4/83 (report not yet filed); pending before Energy and Commerce (Health Subcom.)
S. 1787 (Biden)	Judiciary	Reported from Judiciary on 10/25/83 (S. Rep. 98-278) on Senate Calendar
S. 1862 (DeConcini)	Judiciary (Criminal Law Subcom.)	Pending